

**CITY OF CROUCH**  
**Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City Council**  
**February 14, 2024**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall**  
**Garden Valley, ID 83622**  
**Minutes**

The public has the right to attend meetings, with the exception of lawful executive sessions.

\*\*Changes on agenda are for emergencies only.\*\*

**Council Members**

**Mayor- Trevor Schiefelbein**  
**Steve McAninch-President**  
**Clayton Smith**  
**Shawna Martin**  
**Mike Hefner**

**Staff**

**Treasurer-Steve Raddigan**  
**Water Master- George Simpson-absent**  
**City Clerk- Bonnie Horsewood**  
**City Attorney-Geoff Schroader**

**Open Regular Council Meeting-6:17 PM**

Pledge of Allegiance

**Public Water Hearing**

**Open Public Hearing-6:05 PM**

**Hear Testimony-** Tim Fritzley asked if there was an official report by Mountain Water Works. Before they quit wasn't there a report on usage vs rates analysis. Approximately a year ago. Geoff has spoken to other cities regarding their rates. Mayor did not remember seeing that report. Tim asked if we had put together what the reserve was or needed to be in case there was an emergency, operational cost, etc. No this is one reason why we are discussing what rates need to be. Tim's concern was that we do not have these figures yet and they are needed before a rate increase should be discussed. Mike from Mountain Water Works was supposed to put together a report on this. Per Geoff since Mike is not at Mountain Water Works, Geoff's advice is obtaining an engineer. We have a legal obligation to keep the water solvent. In a 2018 meeting for the bond there were four scenarios, and one was \$140 a month, Mike made reference to that in that meeting. Our current meeting is to collect public testimony and make a decision at a later date. Geoff spoke to the Rural Water Association, Executive Director, she was not able to come tonight, but they have options on this kind of an overall system and other cities that have exited water service, which Council has entertained. We are limited to twenty-five people, EDU's, or we have to have a redundant well. A redundant well will not pencil out unless you have more customers and that does not even appear to be likely. Geoff suggested taking input on the rate increase, table making a decision then have a special meeting sometime between now and March. This gal and Jeff Cook are familiar with systems like this, and they can help give us another menu of options. As Geoff had stated, get an engineer on board. We are dealing with the 2018 report which is 6 years old, that is all we have. Question was how many customers do we have and what is the potential of it being usable. He is a property owner who was going to have access but does not have access now, has a crappy well and spent \$10,000 on a water treatment system. He would have gladly paid some of that money into the city to get connected and

help fund something else. He would still consider that but if it is not going to pencil out then he will probably just drill another well. The Mayor said that we have 25 EDU's and only eleven customers. At this time, we are not making a decision and appreciate your input. Tim requested a full copy of the Water Agreement with the city. That agreement would have to be dealt with in the ultimate failure of the system because there was a bargain for exchange contingent on the system expanding. The water supply is not large enough to supply the fire hydrants for a sustained amount of time.

### **Close Public Hearing-6:17 PM**

- **Consent Agenda**

- Review of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 10, 2023
- Review of Payables & Financials
- (\*) Approve Consent Agenda

Member CS made the Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Member SM Second the Motion. SWM-Yes, SM-Yes, CS-Yes, MH-Yes Motion Passed.

- **Water Issues**

- (\*) Water Master Report- Water Master George Simpson was absent, no report. George may be moving but this is not verified yet.
- (\*) Discussion on the Public Water Hearing- Council discussed the Public Water Hearing. Council member SM said to raise the water rate from \$40 a month to \$140 a month, he would have a tough time supporting that without some reason to do so. The Mayor went through a few things from the testimony given at the Public Hearing. There is an agreement from Greg at the Garden Valley Market, new rates we need comps and potential growth that we could have or see in line with the wait list we have with our current water system, if we were to expand, the potential cost. Ballpark figures would at least help. We need to prepare a little more, get some experts here that could give us some information to further our discussion. Possibly have a meeting in our March meeting. Member SM asked at what point do we discuss getting out of the water business. Geoff said that discussion came up a year or two ago with Mayor Powell and Mike Woodward, it might not make sense to keep doing this. Steve Raddigan had the Water Facility Plan; the initial quote then was way above what we are charging now. When we talk about getting a study to get some comparatives we are below the initial start. Geoff said from that report \$140 was one of the options for water rates that would keep it afloat. That is without expanding. At the meeting a few years ago with Mayor Powell, there was discussion of forming a water district. Steve Raddigan had provided information to the Council regarding that issue. There are only two people who are living in the city who are registered to vote for the water district. The other option is a Recreational Water District which people who do not live in can vote but you need 50% of that vote. It has to be wilderness. If you were to expand the district beyond the existing users, the people in Packer John would have to vote for a need which they do not have because they have their own system. Geoff has never dealt with forming a water district, but he could look into the legality of creating one. Shelly Roberts and Jeff Cook are the circuit riders for this area for the Rural Water Association. It would be productive to have a meeting or a Special Meeting to give us some options. Geoff read 3202A for a water district and it explains the ins and outs. It would be like a checkerboard and Steve Raddigan said we would need that. We could qualify as a very small water district with DEQ but only after we form a water district. Steve Raddigan strongly urges the city to form a water district and give this to the district. Steve will contact Jeff Cook. The district bosses can determine what water rates they want. If there is a legal, viable option then we need to move forward with this. Geoff said before

the March meeting we need to have a Special meeting and he can come up and help with that. Tim Fritzley said the riders are really good because they see what all the other cities have done, and they can come up with ideas to help. Going along with other comments regarding the EDU's, we will have to figure out what to do with our connections. There is an agreement that the people have the ability to connect without fee if it expands beyond twenty-five connections. They get the hookup, but they still pay the monthly fees. There is a connection fee in Crouch of \$2000 and the engineer needs to tune that fee up as well. Because the EDU's given for exchange of real property, do not have a connection fee. It also states that is only if the system expands beyond twenty-five connections. Member CS asked where the fire hydrants get their water from. It is the city water tank. We have 6 or 7 hydrants in town. Steve Raddigan said not to get hung up on the need to feed fire hydrants on the basis that you will save on insurance. The cost of putting in the line to provide the water does not create a significant difference in insurance rates for property owners. Its more about the distance from the staffed fire station, equipment that they have. Mayor said we will get a meeting set up hopefully before the March meeting. Geoff will let the clerk know. Steve R. asked if the goal was to form a water district. Geoff said the idea is to have a meeting with Shelly and Jeff and see all the options we may have. Privatizing is not private it is still a public system.

- **New Business**

- (\*) Appoint Impact Fee Advisory Committee- Mayor was provided with a list of the Impact Fee Advisory Committee names. The Council was advised to adopt this Advisory Committee as the City of Crouch's. Mayor asked for a Motion to adopt this Committee. Mayor read the names Kraig Wees, Kevin Coldani, Kayla Davis, Tim Fritzley and Kathy Vaughan. They did not need to attend and were not invited. They were appointed last April, and the Council is just adopting them as City of Crouch's official committee. There were more people who were interviewed for this committee, and these were who the Fire Department selected. Member SM made the Motion to adopt the named Committee Members mentioned to represent our city for the Impact Fee Advisory Committee, Member CS Second the Motion. All were in favor, Motion passed. We all need to coordinate with Boise County and have a meeting. There is a 35-day window of notification. The Fire Department has not posted notice yet. When they do, they will need to contact Bonnie so she can let Geoff know. This a Planning and Zoning action that the City is going to amend its Comp Plan to add the CIP ( Capital Improvement Plan) and approve a Developmental Impact Fee Ordinance and execute a Governmental Agreement all at the same time, maybe. Holding a public hearing for the Comp Plan and the Developmental Impact Fee Ordinance outside of the city limits should not be a problem but Geoff just wants to make sure. The Fire Chief did not realize that there was a 35-day notice required but now that we have this official, he will get on this. Geoff asked Chief Cleveland to contact him after he gets with Boise County so we can get on publishing a notice.
- (\*) Mayor to Reappoint Mike Hefner to City Council- Mayor reappointed Mike Hefner as Council Member. Member SWM Made the Motion to accept the reappointment of Mike Hefner, Member CS Second the Motion to accept the reappointment. All: Yes Passed. Mayor gave Mike the Oath of Office and swore him in.
- (\*) Discussion on Improving Community Hall- Council was provided a list of things that need to be done at Community Hall. There were light bulbs, batteries for a clock, smoke detectors, possibly a vacuum, new air filters, toilet brushes, paper towels, trash bags. Need to remove some broken chairs, fix or remove the wooden chairs/benches. Mike

Uhl said that the wooden ones need to be auctioned off as historical. Mayor asked Mike if he thought we would get anything for them. Mike said anytime they have an event at Community Hall, everyone wants to buy them. If Council decides to sell them, he suggests contacting the people redoing the old school. They may want some of those for their home because they are from the same period of time. Mike said if we do sell them off, we may want to buy some new tables. There are five tables over there that are very heavy, so get rid of them and get lighter ones. Mike said Walmart or Costco may have them. The Community Service lady made the list of needed things when they cleaned there. Mayor approved Bonnie to get some of the needed things. Mayor asked Council their thoughts on what to do with the chairs, tables and benches. If the benches are going to stay, they need repaired and need something so they can slide more easily. If the benches were gone there would be a little extra room in there. The chair racks are not all full, so we have room for a few more. We would have a little money to buy more tables and chairs if we sold the old tables and chairs. We would need a Resolution for surplus property to sell or get rid of it. The daycare lady Sarah Marie approached the Mayor inquiring about letting the daycare kids come and run around for exercise in harsh weather. The Fire Chief reminded the Council of the capacity of the Hall, not to get more chairs than people allowed there. Tracy mentioned that the floor could use some refinishing as well. Steve Raddigan said the exterior could use some refinishing or oiling. Mike suggested doing an auction on 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Not a bad idea. Terry Tucker is an auctioneer! Mayor said to go ahead and pick up some of the needed items batteries, smoke detectors, light bulbs etc. We don't really need a vacuum cleaner, the big dust mop works well. Put a Resolution on next month's Agenda for surplus from Community Hall.

- (\*) Community Emergency Preparedness Committee- Donna from Cross Timber handed out information about communities and being prepared. She thought it would be a good idea to get an emergency plan/list for the city. They have a few volunteers already that have been discussing some ideas. They would like to work with the city as volunteers. Would like to see if a Council member would like to be on their committee. If they would also like to offer community type classes, they are welcome to use Community Hall for this per the Mayor. Trina Richardson was working with Boise County, but Donna has not heard back from her. There is not much other counties are doing right now so she thought it may be beneficial if we have that in place here. Since we are such a spread-out community it would be nice to have a coordinator in different neighborhoods that would be able to let people living there know how to obtain help if needed until fire or medical could show up. Mayor brought up about how an avalanche or a mud slide could cut us off for possibly a few days. So being self-prepared is important. Having a vehicle accident or a small fire, people would be able to help until professionals could get there. More urban people are moving here as well and do not realize how remote it can be. Do they know an evacuation route, know that the school is an evacuation site, have enough food to get by for a few days? Basic first aid would be beneficial too. CPR classes, what to do in an accident situation, how to get somewhere for communication when there is no service where you are, even driving in the snow. There is a learning curve for all those things. A community survey would be helpful: example who may have a tractor, backhoe, people skills that would help others in an emergency situation. Mayor asked if a Council member might want to be a liaison with them. The city could help with getting information with classes, and training out to the public. Even a community member here so that there is communication with us and others. Member McAninch said he could help out. We will have monthly updates on what they are doing. I will add to the monthly agenda. They are not trying to form a

CERT team, just a citizens awareness group. A CERT team is a little more complicated per Fire Chief. They were going to start working with HOA's this year to go over their emergency plans. A CERT team would be great to make sure that someone could get by for 72 hrs. for example. He would like to coordinate with individuals and resources that could be used in case of a large-scale disaster. Donna did contact the state and they have not had CERT training in years.

- **Old Business**

- (\*) Discuss CD's- Steve Raddigan asked Council what they would like to do as far as the CD's go. Since the Resolution was not on the Agenda, the Council will have to vote on it at our March meeting. Add to March's Agenda. Interest rates could change by March.

- **Scheduled Delegations**

- (\*) Road Committee Report- Were not able to meet with Commissioner Terwilliger but will keep trying.
- (\*) Crouch/Garden Valley Museum Board Report – Museum is still closed for the winter so no report.

- **Unscheduled Delegations**

- (\*) **Clerk Report** – Clerk suggested putting benches and garbage cans around the town. The thought was people will stuff their trash in them instead of taking it home. Member MH gave an example of people using his trash dumpster.

Member CS asked Tim Fritzley if any progress had been made on a downtown Business District. Not yet. He will dig back into it again. He has spoken to Steve Fitz from the Merc and he had concerns about having by laws that are enforceable then you do not have a District. Geoff said if you do not have some way to enforce the rules then that is a problem. Steve R. said nothing would prevent the businesses from forming a business Association. Geoff said it still requires some by laws. All the businesses would have to join and agree on requirements. All businesses would have to have a vested interest in it. Mike Uhl handed out flyers for his flea market schedule. The up coming one will benefit the EMT's. He also said when the inside of Community Hall was painted long ago, there was James Castle artwork that was taken down. He was inquiring if we knew where it all went. He would like to display it at the upcoming art sale. We will check upstairs and also ask Kim if she knows anything about it.

- (\*) **Treasurers Report- In file**
- **Adjournment-7:21PM**

**Next Regular Council Meeting is March 13th, 2023, at 6:30 PM**

***ASTERISK (\*) ITEMS ARE ALL SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE CROUCH CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS.***

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Trevor Schiefelbein- Mayor

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Approved Minutes